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Symposium examines search for common health

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Contact: Dixie McLaughlin, (406) 329-5662.

SYMPOSIUM EXAMINES SEARCH FOR COMMON HEALTH

MISSOULA--

The Institute for Medicine and Humanities, a joint venture between The University of Montana-Missoula and St. Patrick Hospital, will host a symposium Friday, Nov. 6, to explore issues that complicate the debate over community health-planning efforts.

"Private Lives, Community Lives: The Search for Common Health" will run from 8 to 11:30 a.m. and from 1 to 4:30 p.m. at Missoula's Holiday Inn Parkside. Registration is from 7:30 to 8 a.m. The symposium is free and open to the public.

Five experts will discuss the tensions aroused when individual rights face potential infringement by efforts to establish a greater good for the entire community -- as in immunization, for example. The morning sessions will examine the history of that conflict and the dilemmas created by attempts to focus on community benefits. The afternoon sessions will be devoted to defining community health and looking at specific health issues that individual communities need to address. Here is the program:

7:30-8 a.m. -- Registration.

8-8:30 a.m. -- "Is There a Public Good in America: A Polemic Against Yankeesmo," by IMH Distinguished Visiting Professor A. Howard Carter, on leave fall semester from his post at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Fla., where he teaches comparative literature and humanities. Carter is author of "First Cut: A Season in the Anatomy Lab" and co-author of

"Rising From the Flames: The Experience of the Severely Burned."

8:30-9:15 a.m. -- "Public Health: Competing and Complementary Interests," by Ellen Leahy, director of the Missoula City/County Health Department and longtime public health professional. Leahy's career includes work in communicable disease control, AIDS prevention, environmental health, disaster response and access-to-care issues.

9:30-10:30 a.m. -- "Immunizations: Public Health vs. Individual Rights," a case study presented by John C. Christenson, chief of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine at the University of Utah School of Medicine. Christensen is an internationally recognized expert on childhood infectious diseases. His particular concerns include the problems of antibiotic use and inadequate childhood immunizations.

10:30-11:30 a.m. -- "The Crisis in Antibiotic Resistance: Blame Enough for Everyone and Where to Go From Here," a case study presented by Missoula physician George Risi, specialist in infectious diseases and director of St. Patrick Hospital's Infection Control Program.

1-2 p.m. -- "Health: Individual Commodity or Communal Good?" by Christopher F. Adams, president and founder of Healthy Outcomes Inc., a Colorado-based consulting firm. Before founding Healthy Outcomes, Adams was director of the Center for Ethics and Social Policy at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif.

2-4 p.m. -- "Measuring the Health of Your Community," explored by symposium participants in small working groups.

4-4:30 p.m. -- Wrap-up and final comments.

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